

# Brigade found guilty of violating student code

By Lana Wetterman

The Student Commission has recommended that the registration of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB) be terminated immediately and that the group not be allowed to register as a student organization until Autumn Quarter of 1980 as a result of testimony presented in a hearing held Friday.

The hearing was held to rule on allegations that RCYB violated the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The allegations stem from a Jan. 23 incident when a visiting CIA recruiter was splattered with red paint by an unidentified RCYB member in the Hitchcock Hall engineering placement office.

RCYB was protesting CIA involvement in Iran and the presence of the recruiter on campus.

RCYB was found guilty of violations of the student code including interfering with students' rights to interview for employment, intentional infliction or threat of bodily harm, and intentional destruction of property.

The commission did not rule on two lesser charges of negligent infliction or threat of bodily harm and negligent destruction of property.

The student commission recommended the following sanctions:

- That the RCYB make full restitution for damage done to the interior of Hitchcock Hall. This amount is estimated between \$30 to \$40.

An earlier bill from the Office of Physical Improvements listed damages at about \$225. This bill included the costs of sandblasting the exterior of Hitchcock Hall to remove anti-CIA slogans spray painted on the wall.

Although the slogans resembled slogans in RCYB pamphlets, no one could positively identify the person or persons who painted the slogans as being associated with RCYB.

- That funds from Undergraduate Student Government (USG) or the Council on Student Affairs allocations not be used to make restitution.

- That RCYB's registration as a student organization at Ohio State be terminated immediately and that the termination continue through Summer Quarter of 1980. This would deny

RCYB all privileges of registered student organizations, including funding and office space.

- That RCYB not be allowed to reorganize before Autumn Quarter of 1980 under a different name.

- RCYB's reinstatement in Autumn Quarter of 1980 be preceded by a clear outline of the purpose of the group and proof that full restitution has been made.

These recommended sanctions will be passed on to Richard Hollingsworth, the director of the Office of Student Organizations and Community Life, who will make the final decision on the case.

According to student code provisions, RCYB may request an appeal of the Student Commission's verdict in University Court.

If Hollingsworth follows the commission's recommendations, the RCYB could also appeal before the Vice President of Student Services, William Nester.

Friday's hearing was disrupted when RCYB president Patricia Preston stood up and began reading a statement after she refused to enter pleas on the charges made against RCYB. Her statement condemned the Student Commission hearing as a "kangaroo court" and a "legal lynching."

Preston said RCYB was protesting the hearing because it was not given time to collect witnesses on its behalf and because the group's faculty adviser, John B. Quigley, professor of law and political science, was out of town.

RCYB was informed of the hearing and its rights to legal counsel and witnesses in accordance with the time limits prescribed by the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, according to John Halstead, coordinator of judicial programs.

When Preston refused to stop reading the statement and allow the hearing to continue, Tami Hockenberger, a junior from Toledo and chief justice of the commission, called for a recess.

The courtroom was cleared and RCYB members continued to protest in the hall outside the room. When the hearing was called back into session about 15 minutes later, Preston

and other RCYB members and supporters refused to re-enter.

The hearing proceeded without the Prestons and other RCYB members present.

B. Tarver Hagan, director of engineering placement and a witness to the paint-throwing incident, said that during the demonstration in the office, he was "bear-hugged from behind" and "thrown against the counter" by someone associated with RCYB. He was not injured.

Eric Busch, investigator with the university police, testified that he believed the events were pre-planned and that the RCYB was responsible.

Busch said that minutes after the paint was thrown on the recruiter, RCYB members distributed pamphlets outside Hitchcock Hall which directly referred to the paint throwing.

Betty Fornof, a secretary in the placement office, testified that before the paint incident, George Preston, husband of Patricia and RCYB treasurer, came into the office requesting an interview with the CIA recruiter.

Fornof said she believes he came into the office only to identify the recruiter. Preston went up to the recruiter when she stepped out of the room where interviews were being held, talked to her for a few minutes and left, Fornof said.

Jim Petrosky, a senior engineering major from Wadsworth, was filing a resume in the office when the paint was thrown.

Petrosky said other students who have talked to him since the incident resent the action of the RCYB which, the students said interferes with their right to interview for jobs.

Tom Gormley, the engineering representative to the University Senate and a USG member, said that students have approached him echoing the same concerns.

Gormley also said that during the process when student organizations requested funding from USG, RCYB presented itself as a cultural group.

Strict guidelines in the allocation process prohibit funding groups that exist strictly to support specific political ideologies, Gormley said.